

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for reducing pain sensation comprising:
applying a therapeutically effective amount of an anhydrous gel anesthetic formulation
consisting of:
in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group
consisting of procaine, lidocaine, and tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine,
mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyoclaine;
a skin penetration enhancer;
a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of:
preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and
an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: analgesics,
anxiolytic compounds, antiarrhythmics, antibacterials, antibiotics, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants,
antifungals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, antivirals, bronchodilators, calcium channel
blockers, cytotoxics and anticancer agents, cytokines, growth factors, immunosuppressives, muscle
relaxants, psychotherapeutics, sympathomimetics, vasodilators, and vitamins;
to the area of an individual's skin to be anesthetized; and
allowing the gel anesthetic to remain in contact with the area for a period of time
sufficient to reduce pain sensation.

20. (Currently amended) A method for reducing pain sensation comprising applying
a therapeutically effective amount of an anesthetic formulation consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyoclaine;

a skin penetration enhancer comprising benzyl alcohol;

a volatile co-solvent;

with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: analgesics, anxiolytic compounds, antiarrhythmics, antibacterials, antibiotics, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, antifungals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, antivirals, bronchodilators, calcium channel blockers, cytotoxics and anticancer agents, cytokines, growth factors, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, psychotherapeutics, sympathomimetics, vasodilators, and vitamins;

to the area to be anesthetized.

21-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A method of local anesthesia comprising the step of applying to intact oral mucosa a topical anesthetic consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyoclaine;

a skin penetration enhancer;

a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and

an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: analgesics, anxiolytic compounds, antiarrhythmics, antibacterials, antibiotics, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, antifungals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, antivirals, bronchodilators, calcium channel blockers, cytotoxics and anticancer agents, cytokines, growth factors, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, psychotherapeutics, sympathomimetics, vasodilators, and vitamins.

25. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 19, wherein lidocaine is present from 0.5-6 total weight percent.

26. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 19, wherein said skin penetration enhancer is present from 25 to 45 total weight percent.

27. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 19 wherein the gelling agent is a cellulosic polymer.

28. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 19 wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-itch.

29. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 24, wherein lidocaine is present from 0.5-6 total weight percent.

30. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 24, wherein said skin penetration enhancer is present from 25 to 45 total weight percent.

31. (New) A method for reducing pain sensation comprising:
applying a therapeutically effective amount of an anhydrous gel anesthetic formulation
consisting of:
in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group
consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine,
mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyoclaine;
a skin penetration enhancer; and
a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of:
preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient.

32. (New) A method for reducing pain sensation comprising:
applying a therapeutically effective amount of an anhydrous gel anesthetic formulation
consisting of:
in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group
consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine,
mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyoclaine;
a skin penetration enhancer;
a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of:
preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and
an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: alkylamines,
ethanolamines, ethylenediamines, phenothiazines, astemazole, loratadine, fexofenadine, cetirizine,
camphor, thymol, calamine, crotamiton, aminoglycosides, cephalosporins, vancomycin,
lincosamides, macrolides, nitroimidazoles, penicillins, antibiotic polypeptides, and quinolones.

33. (New) A method of local anesthesia comprising the step of applying to intact oral mucosa a topical anesthetic consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyoclaine;

a skin penetration enhancer; and

a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient.

34. (New) A method of local anesthesia comprising the step of applying to intact oral mucosa a topical anesthetic consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyoclaine;

a skin penetration enhancer;

a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and

an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: alkylamines, ethanolamines, ethylenediamines, phenothiazines, astemazole, loratadine, fexofenadine, cetirizine, camphor, thymol, calamine, crotamiton, aminoglycosides, cephalosporins, vancomycin, lincosamides, macrolides, nitroimidazoles, penicillins, antibiotic polypeptides, and quinolones.